



Ask Your United States Research Question

1 March 2017

QUESTION 1:

D. Reeves: Searching the 1940 Census for a black family. Robert (Bob) Wilson Smith b. 1916 in Jeffersonville, Twiggs County, GA. His wife, Ella Mae (Odom) Smith b. 1914 in Kinderhook, Putnam County, GA. Married 1935 in Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia. In 1940 they were supposed to be in Atlanta, GA for work. They had several children born in Atlanta. The only one with them on this census is Barbara Jean (Sut) aka Mary Francis Smith born in 1938 in Atlanta, GA. Found a Robert Wilson b.1915 in John Were's household as a roomer in Atlanta, GA. Don't know if it is my Robert! Found a Robert Smith b.1915 in Roseanna Primrose's household as a lodger in Atlanta, GA. Don't know if it is my Robert!

1. City directories for Atlanta, Georgia for 1940 and years before and after. Find an address for them and find the census by address.
2. Search 1940 census index at www.familysearch.org and use 1935 residence.
3. Order birth certificates for children and get an address for where the family was living at the time of their births.
4. A Robert and Ella living in Morgan County with a daughter Emma (doesn't match)
5. Search for siblings of Robert and Ella Mae.
6. David: Robert Smith, b Millageville 11 May 1916. See Ancestry.com. U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007, died Brooklyn, NY 1993
7. Land and property records. Family just looking for work.
8. Next child born in 1941 in Atlanta. Birth record would give address when the child was born. Use www.stevemorse.org to find the enumeration district for the address.
9. RAESANDERS on Ancestry has list of children born to Ella and Robert. There is a 1939 census for Ella but not for Robert. Rae Sanders of Utah has posted a picture of him on Ancestry.
10. School records for the children of Robert and Ella.
11. What about newspaper articles or obituaries that might give key information.
12. Directory of online newspapers at The Ancestor Hunt
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/georgia-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.WLctCPKg0ns>
13. Their son Ernest died in 1959 in Eatonton, Putnam Co, Georgia

QUESTION 2:

David K Oklahoma: William T Clark, Born about 1914 in Ohio. Married Mary Lee Clark (not sure if Lee is her maiden name or middle name). Listed on 1920 census as William T Clark in Franklin, Warren County, Ohio. Listed on 1930 census as William F Clark in Franklin, Warren County, Ohio. Listed on 1940 census as William Clark in Franklin, Warren County, Ohio. Married to Mary Lee Clark, age 21. Still living with his parents. Cannot find any other information about him.

1. Marriage record in Ohio.
2. Ancestry search for birth, marriage, death, military anything that will give you a clue about him.
3. Death record or an obituary
4. Findagrave.com may give information about him.
5. City directories
6. Obituary for parents may give the names and residences of surviving children.
7. US Record Selection table
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Record_Selection_Table
8. Online historical newspapers <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/ohio-online-historical-newspapers-summary>
9. US Newspaper Directory at Library of Congress to find holdings in Libraries
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
10. Siblings of William: obituaries may show surviving siblings and give a residence.
11. Probate records for the mother or father will show where the children were living. If William is deceased the probate records may show his children receiving an inheritance from their grandparents.
12. If you have the death records on the parents look who the informant was it might be him. Sometime they included their address. Informant for his father's death certificate was his sister in Dayton.
13. Findagrave for the father. Check to see if he's listed with links to his spouse and children.
14. Siblings in Findagrave.com, <http://www.interment.net/>,
<http://www.cyndislist.com/cemeteries/>
15. "The Hidden Half of the Family" when searching for women. Entry from FHL catalog:
<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/822520?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
16. Search Warren County for guardianship records for Mary and possible children?
17. Re-marriage for Mary in Warren County. Divorce records.
18. Newspapers for divorce records.
19. Find a William and Mary, then assume they're the wrong people and do cradle-to-grave timeline.
20. Wills.
21. Jan: Is anyone doing DNA research on this family? Any one-name studies?

QUESTION 3:

Bette B - AZ: What information would I expect to find in guardianship papers from the 1800s? I have requested a copy of guardianship papers from Wisconsin that are not available through the FHL. The county clerk emailed me that guardianship papers are always sealed for confidentiality but that she is going to ask the judge if it is alright to copy and release these papers since they are over 100 years old. I am hoping to confirm the parents of the individuals with these guardianship papers. Is that reasonable and realistic?

1. While it depends on the county, guardianship papers usually do list the names of parents.

QUESTION 4:

Judith: Suggestions on finding links back to Europe for Crypto-Jews late 18th century? Children were all baptized in Christian churches, and the name was changed, and can't find anything under the original name. Thanks for any resource suggestions.

1. Jewishgen.org, mostly free to use, just register
2. DNA autosomal for males/females: Ancestry.com, 23 and Me. Y-DNA for male lines, Family Tree DNA.
3. Join surname projects and Haplogroup projects.
4. Do as much in the US as you can.
5. Church records burial: at the time of their burial will list where they were originally from.
6. Search the Todd Knowles collection of Jewish families:
<http://knowlescollection.blogspot.com/2015/03/the-knowles-collection-has-moved.html>
7. Follow godparents of the children in the church records, might be relatives.
8. Do FAN research. Family, Associates, and Neighbors
9. Follow all of the children of the couple and see if they know where their parents were born.
10. Manuscript collections at Archive Grid: <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

